**Madarsa education in modern subjects**

216. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has ever tried to find out, without interfering with theological content of Madarsa education, the ways to improve the quality of Madarsa education in modern subjects;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions has recommended for setting up of the Central Madarsa Board for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the outcome of part (a) and action that has been contemplated or is proposed in regard to part (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In regard to quality of teaching in modern subjects referred to in part (a), under the scheme of modern education in madrasas, steps taken by the Government include:

(1) enhancement of honorarium to teachers;

(2) enhancement of the assistance to madrasas for teaching equipment;

(3) assistance through the University Grants Commission for establishing academies for training teachers of modern subjects through the Urdu medium in Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

In regard to part (b), the Central Government shall not proceed in the matter until there is consensus among all stake-holders.

**Free education to poor students in private schools in Delhi**

217. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADERAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allotted land on concessional rates to such private schools in Delhi that will give 15 per cent compulsory admission to poor students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of schools which were given land on concessional rates and how many of them have implemented the clause relating to free education to poor students alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c ) Directorate of Education, Govt. of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi had issued detailed direction in 2007 regarding provision of 20 per cent free

seats for students belonging to economically weaker sections in unaided private schools in Delhi, which have been allotted land by the government agencies. The High Court of Delhi *vide* its order dated 30.5.2007 has directed that such schools shall admit 15 per cent students of the weaker sections. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has reported that out of 390 schools which were given land at concessional rates, 245 schools have fully complied with the orders, 139 schools have partially complied, 3 schools have not provided any information, 2 schools are not functioning and 1 school has been derecognized.

**Effects of price rise on Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

218. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mid-Day Meal Scheme is badly Effected by the high price rise in essential commodities;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to mitigate crisis;

(c) the immediate steps that are being taken by Government to provide good food to children; and

(d) if not, the reasons for various State Governments asking to increase Mid-Day Meal Budget in view of the price rise and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In order to offset the impact of price rise, the Government decided in September, 2007 to enhance cooking cost by 5% every second year starting from the year 2008-09. Accordingly, with effect from 1.4,2008, the cooking cost was raised from Rs.1.80 per child per school day to Rs.1.89 at primary stage and from Rs.2.30 to Rs.2.42 at upper primary stage in North-Eastern (NE) States. Similarly, it was enhanced from Rs.1.50 to Rs.1.58 at primary level and from Rs.2.00 to Rs. 2.10 at upper primary level in case of all other States/UTs. NE States are required to contribute minimum Rs. 0.20 and other States/UTs Rs. 0.50. However, some States/UTs are contributing more than their minimum share. On the requests of various states/UTs to further enhance the cooking cost, a National Level Committee was constituted to review *inter alia* the cooking cost norm. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee and the Expenditure Finance Committee, a proposal to revise the cooking cost and other related issues has been sent to the Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

**Universalisation of secondary education**

219. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious enough for universalising secondary education so as to enhance higher education which is critical for development;